

SENATOR MOORE: ..Senator Withem has rightfully said, well, it could have been 40 million, this is only 8 million, look what I've done for you, doesn't have to be that either. I think the body, in agriculture, are much wiser to insist on saying let's exempt all sales tax or let's...don't make us pay for it. The business community that is very determined that 1063 is the proper policy for the State of Nebraska, they have to be able to own up to that policy and help pay the bill, to hold agriculture as harmless as possible. That ought to be the compromise. That is the compromise we should have worked out a week ago but, unfortunately, this is the compromise people are stuck with. It's certainly not a compromise in any way, shape or form that makes the bill better, only remotely better from switching energy to fertilizer.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I'm, again, one of those that don't like 1063. I liked it worse...I didn't like it worse, I guess, in its currently amended version. This amendment proposes to...I'll fill you in just a little bit on what it does propose to do. It proposes to exempt new and used farm equipment from the sales tax. We have a bill here that proposes to increase the taxes for agriculture on...insofar as property taxes some 12 to 14 million dollars. Nobody really knows, but that's a generally accepted figure. The proposed 5 percent exemption...or exemption created for new and used farm equipment represents 14.7 million dollars. My urban colleagues feel that agriculture, for reasons known best to themselves, should not be afforded a zero treatment in this. This amendment then is a good faith effort to address their concerns relative to the 14.7 million dollars in sales tax exemption value and create a package that basically results in the agriculture community picking up a little over 9 million dollars, I don't have the figures in front of me, and the sales tax collection fee and the reduction in state aid to counties, the portion that comes off of the nonrural people by some amount of money to make this mix, about 9.5 million ag contributions and a little over 6 mill...or a little over 5 million from the nonagricultural section..sector. There was a question raised relative to the difference in prices on fertilizers, why a percentage fee rather than the dollars per ton. Simply an administrative decision. All of us that are familiar with agriculture well know the varying compositions and the varying prices and the varying prices from year to year on all of these